REMARKS

1. Support for Amendments

The amendments are fully supported in the specification, and thus the amendments do not constitute new matter.

2. Objections

The applicants have herein used the phrase "Previously canceled" to identify claim numbers that were canceled in previous responses, as required by the patent office.

3. Replacement paragraphs

The applicants are herewith providing replacement pages as required by the patent office.

4. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

(a) The patent office rejected claims 30, 44, 54, and 61-65 under 35 U.S.C.§103(a) based on the assertion that the claims are obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,784,162 ("Cabib et al."), in light of *In re Venner*. Specifically, the patent office recites a large number of asserted teachings from Cabib et al., and then assert that, based on these isolated assertions, the presently pending claims would be obvious to one of skill in the art. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

It is well established that the Patent Office bears the initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness, before any rejection under § 103 may be made. *In re Bell*, 991 F.2d 781 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Accordingly, "if the examiner does not produce a *prima facie* case, the applicant is under no obligation to submit evidence of non-obviousness." M.P.E.P. § 2142. Citing the Federal Circuit, the M.P.E.P. outlines three basic criteria that must be met to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, one of which is that the prior art refernece must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. M.P.E.P. § 2143 (*citing In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488 (Fed. Cir. 1991)).

Moreover, in making an assessment of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Patent Office is required to follow the four factual inquires outlined in *Graham v. John Deere*, 383

U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), which includes ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims in issue.

Presently pending claim 30, on which the subsequent claims ultimately depend, recites:

> A machine readable storage medium comprising a program containing a set of instructions for causing a cell screening system to execute procedures for detecting the distribution of one or more cellular macromolecule of interest between a cell cytoplasm and a plasma membrane in individual cells comprising:
>
> a) scanning multiple cells in an array of locations which contain multiple cells to obtain fluorescent signals from fluorescent reporter molecules in the cells, wherein the cells possess a plurality of fluorescent reporter molecules, wherein the plurality of fluorescent reporter molecules comprises one or more fluorescent reporter molecules to report on
>
> (i) one or more cellular macromolecule of interest;
>
> (ii) the cell cytoplasm and
>
> (iii) the plasma membrane;
>
> b) identifying individual cells from the fluorescent signals from the plurality of fluorescent reporter molecules;
>
> c) creating a plasma membrane mask and a cell cytoplasm mask from the plurality of fluorescent reporter molecules;
>
> d) determining an intensity of the fluorescent signals from the fluorescent reporter molecules that report on the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest within the plasma membrane mask and the cell cytoplasm mask in the individual cells in response to contacting the cells with a test stimulus;
>
> e) comparing the intensity of the fluorescent signals from the fluorescent reporter molecules that report on the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest within the plasma membrane mask and the cell cytoplasm mask in the individual cells in response to contacting the cells at a first time point with a test stimulus to:
>
> i) an intensity of fluorescent signals from the fluorescent reporter molecules that report on the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest within the plasma membrane mask and the cell cytoplasm mask in the individual cells in response to contacting the cells with the test stimulus from at least a second time point; and/or
>
> ii) an intensity of fluorescent signals from the fluorescent reporter molecules that report on the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest within the plasma membrane mask and the cell cytoplasm mask in the individual cells that have not been contacted with the test stimulus; and
>
> f) determining the effect of the test stimulus on the distribution of the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest between the plasma membrane and the cell cytoplasm in the individual cells as a function of the intensity of the fluorescent signals from the fluorescent reporter molecules that report on the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest within the plasma membrane mask and

the cell cytoplasm mask in the individual cells in response to the test stimulus.

Cabib does not teach or suggest at least the following limitations of presently pending claim 30:

a) scanning multiple cells in an array of locations which contain multiple cells to obtain fluorescent signals from fluorescent reporter molecules in the cells, wherein the cells possess a plurality of fluorescent reporter molecules, **wherein the plurality of fluorescent reporter molecules comprises one or more fluorescent reporter molecules to report on**

(i) one or more cellular macromolecule of interest;

(ii) the cell cytoplasm and

(iii) the plasma membrane;

b) identifying individual cells from the fluorescent signals **from the plurality of fluorescent reporter molecules**;

c) creating a **plasma membrane mask** and a **cell cytoplasm mask** from the plurality of fluorescent reporter molecules;

d) determining an **intensity of the fluorescent signals** from the fluorescent reporter molecules that report on the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest **within the plasma membrane mask** and the **cell cytoplasm mask** in the **individual cells** in response to contacting the cells with a test stimulus;

e) **comparing** the **intensity** of the fluorescent signals from the fluorescent reporter molecules that report on the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest **within the plasma membrane mask and the cell cytoplasm mask** in the **individual cells** in response to contacting the cells at a first time point with a test stimulus to:

i) an **intensity** of fluorescent signals from the fluorescent reporter molecules that report on the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest **within the plasma membrane mask and the cell cytoplasm mask** in the **individual cells** in response to contacting the cells with the test stimulus from at least a second time point; and/or

ii) an **intensity** of fluorescent signals from the fluorescent reporter molecules that report on the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest **within the plasma membrane mask and the cell cytoplasm mask** in the individual cells that have not been contacted with the test stimulus; and

f) **determining the effect of the test stimulus on the distribution of the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest between the plasma membrane and the cell cytoplasm in the individual cells as a function of the intensity of the fluorescent signals from the fluorescent reporter molecules that report on the one or more cellular macromolecule of interest within the plasma membrane mask and the cell cytoplasm mask in the individual cells in response to the test stimulus**.

The patent office, rather than ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the invention of claim 30 recites varies isolated teachings from Cabib on pages 3-6 of the office action. However, nowhere in these 4 pages of isolated teachings does the patent office assert that Cabib teaches or suggests providing cells that comprise a plurality of fluorescent reporter molecules that report on each of a cellular macromolecule of interest, the cell cytoplasm and the plasma membrane, nor does the patent office assert that Cabib teaches or suggests creating plasma membrane masks and cytoplasmic masks, nor does the patent office assert that Cabib teaches or suggests determining the intensity of fluorescent signals from the one or more fluorescent reporter molecule that reports on the cellular macromolecule of interest within the plasma membrane mask and the cytoplasmic mask in individual cells, nor does the patent office assert that Cabib then teaches or suggests comparing these intensities in treated versus non-treated cells, nor does the patent office assert that Cabib then teaches or suggests using these comparisons to determine the effect of test compounds on distribution of the cellular macromolecule of interest between the plasma membrane and the cytoplasm in individual cells, as recited in claim 30.

Instead, the patent office has simply cited to various portions of the Cabib refernece for what it teaches and occasionally asserts that the section meets the limitation of a particular claim. However, none of these assertions refers to the claim limitations of claim 30 recited above, and at least some of these assertions are inaccurate. For example, the patent office asserts that the teaching of Cabib at column 2 line 66 to column 3 line 13, which discusses inserting filters in an optical path, represents masking (see page 4, lines 13-14 of the office action). However, this clearly is not "masking" as used in claim 30, which refers to masking of specific subcellular organelles (See in the current specification, for example, page 33 line 11 to page 34 line 25; page 46-47 of example 1)

As a result, the patent office has not followed the dictates of the MPEP in ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claimed invention. Furthermore, it is clear that Cabib fails to teach all (or even many) of the limitations of claim 30, and thus does not meet the requirements for establishing a case of prima facie obviousness under MPEP § 706.02(j). Similarly, the dependent claims recite further limitations on claim 30, which are also not taught or suggested by the combination of the cited references. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

(b) The patent office rejected claims 30, 44, 54, and 61-65 under 35 U.S.C.§103(a) based on the assertion that the claims are obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,388,788 ("Harris et al."), in light of *In re Venner*. Specifically, the patent office asserts that the priority date for the claims including the term "cell membrane" is the actual filing date (11/27/00) of the present application, based on the assertion that the term "cell membrane" is not in the priority documents. The earliest priority date for Harris et al is March 16, 1998, while the present application is a divisional of US application 09/031,271 filed February 27, 1998, which claims further priority to earlier applications. Thus, if the presently claimed invention is at least entitled to the priority date of the 09/031,271 application, then Harris et al. is not effective prior art.

The claims have been amended to recite "plasma membrane", which is known by those of skill in the art to be synonymous with "cell membrane". The applicants note that this amendment in no way limits the scope of the claim. The specification filed in the present application, which is identical to the specification filed in the 09/031,271 application, provides support for the use of "plasma membrane", for example, on page 68 lines 18-20; page 69 lines 6-23; and page 70. Thus, the claims are entitled to at least the priority date of the 09/031,271 application. As a result, the Harris et al. reference is not appropriate prior art, and the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants believe that the application is ready for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone or personal interview would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Patent Office is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (312) 913-2106.

Respectfully Submitted,

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the whole area of a 96 well plate. The image is analyzed to calculate the total fluorescence per well for all the material in the well.

Molecular Devices, Inc. (Sunnyvale, CA) describes a system (FLIPR) which uses low angle laser scanning illumination and a mask to selectively excite fluorescence within approximately 200 microns of the bottoms of the wells in standard 96 well plates in order to reduce background when imaging cell monolayers. This system uses a CCD camera to image the whole area of the plate bottom. Although this system measures signals originating from a cell monolayer at the bottom of the well, the signal measured is averaged over the area of the well and is therefore still considered a measurement of the average response of a population of cells. The image is analyzed to calculate the total fluorescence per well for cell-based assays. Fluid delivery devices have also been incorporated into cell based screening systems, such as the FLIPR system, in order to initiate a response, which is then observed as a whole well population average response using a macro-imaging system.

In contrast to high throughput screens, various high-content screens ("HCS") have been developed to address the need for more detailed information about the temporal-spatial dynamics of cell constituents and processes. High-content screens automate the extraction of multicolor fluorescence information derived from specific fluorescence-based reagents incorporated into cells (Giuliano and Taylor (1995), *Curr. Op. Cell Biol.* 7:4; Giuliano et al. (1995) *Ann. Rev. Biophys. Biomol. Struct.* 24:405). Cells are analyzed using an optical system that can measure spatial, as well as temporal dynamics. (Farkas et al. (1993) *Ann. Rev. Physiol.* 55:785; Giuliano et al. (1990) In *Optical Microscopy for*

Biology. B. Herman and K. Jacobson (eds.), pp. 543-557. Wiley-Liss, New York; Hahn et al (1992) *Nature* 359:736; Waggoner et al. (1996) *Hum. Pathol.* 27:494). The concept is to treat each cell as a "well" that has spatial and temporal information on the activities of the labeled constituents.

The types of biochemical and molecular information now accessible through fluorescence-based reagents applied to cells include ion concentrations, membrane potential, specific translocations, enzyme activities, gene expression, as well as the presence, amounts and patterns of metabolites, proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, and nucleic acid sequences (DeBiasio et al., (1996) *Mol. Biol. Cell.* 7:1259;Giuliano et al., (1995) *Ann. Rev. Biophys. Biomol. Struct.* 24:405; Heim and Tsien, (1996) *Curr. Biol.* 6:178).

High-content screens can be performed on either fixed cells, using fluorescently labeled antibodies, biological ligands, and/or nucleic acid hybridization probes, or live cells using multicolor fluorescent indicators and "biosensors." The choice of fixed or live cell screens depends on the specific cell-based assay required.

Fixed cell assays are the simplest, since an array of initially living cells in a microtiter plate format can be treated with various compounds and doses being tested, then the cells can be fixed, labeled with specific reagents, and measured. No environmental control of the cells is required after fixation. Spatial information is acquired, but only at one time point. The availability of thousands of antibodies, ligands and nucleic acid hybridization probes that can be applied to cells makes this an attractive approach for many types of cell-based screens. The fixation and labeling steps can be automated, allowing efficient processing of assays.

which fluoresce only when taken up by living cells are used to reduce background fluorescence without removing excess fluorescent reagent.

Scanning confocal microscope imaging (Go et al., (1997) *Analytical Biochemistry* 247:210-215; Goldman et al., (1995) *Experimental Cell Research* 221:311-319) and multiphoton microscope imaging (Denk et al., (1990) *Science* 248:73; Gratton et al., (1994) *Proc. of the Microscopical Society of America*, pp. 154-155) are also well established methods for acquiring high resolution images of microscopic samples. The principle advantage of these optical systems is the very shallow depth of focus, which allows features of limited axial extent to be resolved against the background. For example, it is possible to resolve internal cytoplasmic features of adherent cells from the features on the cell surface. Because scanning multiphoton imaging requires very short duration pulsed laser systems to achieve the high photon flux required, fluorescence lifetimes can also be measured in these systems (Lakowicz et al., (1992) *Anal. Biochem.* 202:316-330; Gerrittsen et al. (1997), *J. of Fluorescence* 7:11-15)), providing additional capability for different detection modes. Small, reliable and relatively inexpensive laser systems, such as laser diode pumped lasers, are now available to allow multiphoton confocal microscopy to be applied in a fairly routine fashion.

A combination of the biological heterogeneity of cells in populations (Bright, et al., (1989). *J. Cell. Physiol.* 141:410; Giuliano, (1996) *Cell Motil. Cytoskel.* 35:237)) as well as the high spatial and temporal frequency of chemical and molecular information present within cells, makes it impossible to extract high-content information from populations of cells using existing whole microtiter plate readers. No existing high-content screening

at a low resolution of a few microns per pixel for high throughput and particular locations on the microplate to be imaged at a higher resolution of less than 0.5 microns per pixel. These two resolution modes help to improve the overall throughput of the system.

The microplate chamber 42 serves as a microfluidic delivery system for the addition of compounds to cells. The microplate 41 in the microplate chamber 42 is placed in an XY microplate reader 43. Digital data is processed as described above. The small size of this microplate system increases throughput, minimizes reagent volume and allows control of the distribution and placement of cells for fast and precise cell-based analysis. Processed data can be displayed on a PC screen 11 and made part of a bioinformatics data base 44. This data base not only permits storage and retrieval of data obtained through the methods of this invention, but also permits acquisition and storage of external data relating to cells. Figure 5 is a PC display which illustrates the operation of the software.

In an alternative embodiment, a high throughput system (HTS) is directly coupled with the HCS either on the same platform or on two separate platforms connected electronically (e.g. via a local area network). This embodiment of the invention, referred to as a dual mode optical system, has the advantage of increasing the throughput of a HCS by coupling it with a HTS and thereby requiring slower high resolution data acquisition and analysis only on the small subset of wells that show a response in the coupled HTS.

High throughput 'whole plate' reader systems are well known in the art and are commonly used as a component of an HTS system used to screen large numbers of compounds (Beggs (1997), *J. of Biomolec. Screening* 2:71-78; Macaffrey et al., (1996) *J. Biomolec. Screening* 1:187-190).

Those skilled in this art will recognize a wide variety of fluorescent reporter molecules that can be used in the present invention, including, but not limited to, fluorescently labeled biomolecules such as proteins, phospholipids and DNA hybridizing probes. Similarly, fluorescent reagents specifically synthesized with particular chemical properties of binding or association have been used as fluorescent reporter molecules (Barak et al., (1997), *J. Biol. Chem.* 272:27497-27500; Southwick et al., (1990), *Cytometry* 11:418-430; Tsien (1989) in *Methods in Cell Biology*, Vol. 29 Taylor and Wang (eds.), pp. 127-156). Fluorescently labeled antibodies are particularly useful reporter molecules due to their high degree of specificity for attaching to a single molecular target in a mixture of molecules as complex as a cell or tissue.

The luminescent probes can be synthesized within the living cell or can be transported into the cell via several non-mechanical modes including diffusion, facilitated or active transport, signal-sequence-mediated transport, and endocytotic or pinocytotic uptake. Mechanical bulk loading methods, which are well known in the art, can also be used to load luminescent probes into living cells (Barber et al. (1996), *Neuroscience Letters* 207:17-20; Bright et al. (1996), *Cytometry* 24:226-233; McNeil (1989) in *Methods in Cell Biology*, Vol. 29, Taylor and Wang (eds.), pp. 153-173). These methods include electroporation and other mechanical methods such as scrape-loading, bead-loading, impact-loading, syringe-loading, hypertonic and hypotonic loading. Additionally, cells can be genetically engineered to express reporter molecules, such as GFP, coupled to a protein of interest as previously described (Chalfie and Prasher U.S. Patent No. 5,491,084; Cubitt et al. (1995), *Trends in Biochemical Science* 20:448-455).

Once in the cell, the luminescent probes accumulate at their target domain as a result of specific and high affinity interactions with the target domain or other modes of molecular targeting such as signal-sequence-mediated transport. Fluorescently labeled reporter molecules are useful for determining the location, amount and chemical environment of the reporter. For example, whether the reporter is in a lipophilic membrane environment or in a more aqueous environment can be determined (Giuliano et al. (1995), *Ann. Rev. of Biophysics and Biomolecular Structure* 24:405-434; Giuliano and Taylor (1995), *Methods in Neuroscience* 27:1-16). The pH environment of the reporter can be determined (Bright et al. (1989), *J. Cell Biology* 104:1019-1033; Giuliano et al. (1987), *Anal. Biochem.* 167:362-371; Thomas et al. (1979), *Biochemistry* 18:2210-2218). It can be determined whether a reporter having a chelating group is bound to an ion, such as Ca++, or not (Bright et al. (1989), In *Methods in Cell Biology*, Vol. 30, Taylor and Wang (eds.), pp. 157-192; Shimoura et al. (1988), *J. of Biochemistry* (Tokyo) 251:405-410; Tsien (1989) In *Methods in Cell Biology*, Vol. 30, Taylor and Wang (eds.), pp. 127-156).

Furthermore, certain cell types within an organism may contain components that can be specifically labeled that may not occur in other cell types. For example, epithelial cells often contain polarized membrane components. That is, these cells asymmetrically distribute macromolecules along their plasma membrane. Connective or supporting tissue cells often contain granules in which are trapped molecules specific to that cell type (e.g., heparin, histamine, serotonin, etc.). Most muscular tissue cells contain a sarcoplasmic reticulum, a specialized organelle whose function is to regulate the concentration of calcium ions within the cell cytoplasm. Many nervous tissue cells contain secretory

motorized filter wheel 19, and acquires and analyzes images of up to four different colors ("channels" or "wavelengths").

The autofocus procedure is called at a user selected frequency, typically for the first field in each well and then once every 4 to 5 fields within each well. The autofocus procedure calculates the starting Z-axis point by interpolating from the pre-calculated plane focal model. Starting a programmable distance above or below this set point, the procedure moves the mechanical Z-axis through a number of different positions, acquires an image at each position, and finds the maximum of a calculated focus score that estimates the contrast of each image. The Z position of the image with the maximum focus score determines the best focus for a particular field. Those skilled in the art will recognize this as a variant of automatic focusing algorithms as described in Harms et al. in *Cytometry* 5 (1984), 236-243, Groen et al. in *Cytometry* 6 (1985), 81-91, and Firestone et al. in *Cytometry* 12 (1991), 195-206.

For image acquisition, the camera's exposure time is separately adjusted for each dye to ensure a high-quality image from each channel. Software procedures can be called, at the user's option, to correct for registration shifts between wavelengths by accounting for linear (X and Y) shifts between wavelengths before making any further measurements. The electronic shutter 18 is controlled so that sample photo-bleaching is kept to a minimum. Background shading and uneven illumination can be corrected by the software using methods known in the art (Bright et al. (1987), *J. Cell Biol.* 104:1019-1033).

In one channel, images are acquired of a primary marker 105 (Figure 9) (typically cell nuclei counterstained with DAPI or PI fluorescent dyes) which are segmented

7. The average fluorescent intensity of the cytoplasmic mask for colors 2-4 (i.e. #5 divided by #6)
8. The ratio of the average fluorescent intensity of the cytoplasmic mask to average fluorescent intensity within the cell nucleus for colors 2-4 (i.e. #7 divided by #4)
9. The difference of the average fluorescent intensity of the cytoplasmic mask and the average fluorescent intensity within the cell nucleus for colors 2-4 (i.e. #7 minus #4)
10. The number of fluorescent domains (also call spots, dots, or grains) within the cell nucleus for colors 2-4

Features 1 through 4 are general features of the different cell screening assays of the invention. These steps are commonly used in a variety of image analysis applications and are well known in art (Russ (1992) *The Image Processing Handbook*, CRC Press Inc.; Gonzales et al. (1987), *Digital Image Processing*. Addison-Wesley Publishing Co. pp. 391-448). Features 5-9 have been developed specifically to provide measurements of a cell's fluorescent molecules within the local cytoplasmic region of the cell and the translocation (i.e. movement) of fluorescent molecules from the cytoplasm to the nucleus. These features (steps 5-9) are used for analyzing cells in microplates for the inhibition of nuclear translocation. For example, inhibition of nuclear translocation of transcription factors provides a novel approach to screening intact cells (detailed examples of other types of screens will be provided below). A specific algorithm measures the amount of probe in the nuclear region (feature 4) versus the local cytoplasmic region (feature 7) of each cell. Quantification of the difference between these two sub-cellular compartments provides a measure of cytoplasm-nuclear translocation (feature 9).

Feature 10 describes a screen used for counting of DNA or RNA probes within the nuclear region in colors 2-4. For example, probes are commercially available for identifying chromosome-specific DNA sequences (Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD;

sub-region would be defined as two rows, the sampling interval as 5 minutes and the total number of time points 3. The system would then start by scanning two rows, and then adding reagent to the two rows, establishing the time=0 reference. After reagent addition, the system would again scan the two row sub-region acquiring the first time point data. Since this process would take about 250 seconds, including scanning back to the beginning of the sub-region, the system would wait 50 seconds to begin acquisition of the second time point. Two more cycles would produce the three time points and the system would move on to the second 2 row sub-region. The final two 2-row sub-regions would be scanned to finish all the wells on the plate, resulting in four time points for each well over the whole plate. Although the time points for the wells would be offset slightly relative to time=0, the spacing of the time points would be very close to the required 5 minutes, and the actual acquisition times and results recorded with much greater precision than in a fixed-cell screen.

Example 5 High-content screen of human glucocorticoid receptor translocation

One class of HCS involves the drug-induced dynamic redistribution of intracellular constituents. The human glucocorticoid receptor (hGR), a single "sensor" in the complex environmental response machinery of the cell, binds steroid molecules that have diffused into the cell. The ligand-receptor complex translocates to the nucleus where transcriptional activation occurs (Htun et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 93:4845, 1996).

In general, hormone receptors are excellent drug targets because their activity lies at the apex of key intracellular signaling pathways. Therefore, a high-content screen of

hGR translocation has distinct advantage over *in vitro* ligand-receptor binding assays. The availability of up to two more channels of fluorescence in the cell screening system of the present invention permits the screen to contain two additional parameters in parallel, such as other receptors, other distinct targets or other cellular processes.

Plasmid construct. A eukaryotic expression plasmid containing a coding sequence for a green fluorescent protein – human glucocorticoid receptor (GFP-hGR) chimera was prepared using GFP mutants (Palm et al., *Nat. Struct. Biol.* 4:361 (1997). The construct was used to transfect a human cervical carcinoma cell line (HeLa).

Cell preparation and transfection. HeLa cells (ATCC CCL-2) were trypsinized and plated using DMEM containing 5% charcoal/dextran-treated fetal bovine serum (FBS) (HyClone) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin (C-DMEM) 12-24 hours prior to transfection and incubated at 37°C and 5% CO_2 . Transfections were performed by calcium phosphate co-precipitation (Graham and Van der Eb, *Virology* 52:456, 1973; Sambrook et al., (1989). *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Second ed. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, 1989) or with Lipofectamine (Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD). For the calcium phosphate transfections, the medium was replaced, prior to transfection, with DMEM containing 5% charcoal/dextran-treated FBS. Cells were incubated with the calcium phosphate-DNA precipitate for 4-5 hours at 37°C and 5% CO_2, washed 3-4 times with DMEM to remove the precipitate, followed by the addition of C-DMEM.

Lipofectamine transfections were performed in serum-free DMEM without antibiotics according to the manufacturer's instructions (Life Technologies, Gaithersburg,

Example 6 High-content screen of drug-induced apoptosis

Apoptosis is a complex cellular program that involves myriad molecular events and pathways. To understand the mechanisms of drug action on this process, it is essential to measure as many of these events within cells as possible with temporal and spatial resolution. Therefore, an apoptosis screen that requires little cell sample preparation yet provides an automated readout of several apoptosis-related parameters would be ideal. A cell-based assay designed for the cell screening system has been used to simultaneously quantify several of the morphological, organellar, and macromolecular hallmarks of paclitaxel-induced apoptosis.

Cell preparation. The cells chosen for this study were mouse connective tissue fibroblasts (L-929; ATCC CCL-1) and a highly invasive glioblastoma cell line (SNB-19; ATCC CRL-2219) (Welch et al., *In Vitro Cell. Dev. Biol.* 31:610, 1995). The day before treatment with an apoptosis inducing drug, 3500 cells were placed into each well of a 96-well plate and incubated overnight at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO_2 atmosphere. The following day, the culture medium was removed from each well and replaced with fresh medium containing various concentrations of paclitaxel (0 – 50 μM) from a 20 mM stock made in DMSO. The maximal concentration of DMSO used in these experiments was 0.25%. The cells were then incubated for 26 h as above. At the end of the paclitaxel treatment period, each well received fresh medium containing 750 nM MitoTracker Red

(Figure 24; top and bottom graphs). However, mitochondrial potential 295 was minimal at the same concentration of paclitaxel (Figure 24; middle graph). The fact that all the parameters measured approached control levels at increasing paclitaxel concentrations (>10 nM) suggests that SNB-19 cells have low affinity drug metabolic or clearance pathways that are compensatory at sufficiently high levels of the drug. Contrasting the drug sensitivity of SNB-19 cells 297, L-929 showed a different response to paclitaxel 296. These fibroblastic cells showed a maximal response in many parameters at 5 μM paclitaxel, a 500-fold higher dose than SNB-19 cells. Furthermore, the L-929 cells did not show a sharp decrease in mitochondrial potential 295 at any of the paclitaxel concentrations tested. This result is consistent with the presence of unique apoptosis pathways between a normal and cancer cell line. Therefore, these results indicate that a relatively simple fluorescence labeling protocol can be coupled with the cell screening system of the present invention to produce a high-content screen of key events involved in programmed cell death.

Example 7. Protease induced translocation of a signaling enzyme containing a disease-associated sequence from cytoplasm to nucleus.

Plasmid construct. A eukaryotic expression plasmid containing a coding sequence for a green fluorescent protein – caspase (Cohen (1997), *Biochemical J.* 326:1-16; Liang et al. (1997), *J. of Molec. Biol.* 274:291-302) chimera is prepared using GFP mutants. The construct is used to transfect eukaryotic cells.

Cell preparation and transfection. Cells are trypsinized and plated 24 h prior to transfection and incubated at 37°C and 5% CO_2. Transfections are performed by methods

and many other steroid and steroid based molecules. Image acquisition and analysis are performed using the cell screening system of the invention. The intracellular GFP-DASpp fluorescence signal is collected by acquiring fluorescence image pairs (GFP-DASpp and Hoechst 33342-labeled nuclei) from fields cells. The image pairs obtained at each time point are used to define nuclear and cytoplasmic regions in each cell. Translocation of GFP-DASpp is calculated by dividing the integrated fluorescence intensity of GFP-DASpp in the nucleus by the integrated fluorescence intensity of the chimera in the cytoplasm or as a nuclear-cytoplasmic difference of GFP fluorescence. A translocation from the cytoplasm into the nucleus indicates a ligand binding activation of the DASpp thus identifying the potential receptor class and action. Combining this data with other data obtained in a similar fashion using known inhibitors and modifiers of steroid receptors, would either validate the DASpp as a target, or more data would be generated from various sources.

Example 9 Additional Screens

Translocation between the plasma membrane and the cytoplasm:

Profilactin complex dissociation and binding of profilin to the plasma membrane. In one embodiment, a fluorescent protein biosensor of profilin membrane binding is prepared by labeling purified profilin (Federov et al.(1994), *J. Molec. Biol.* 241:480-482; Lanbrechts et al. (1995), *Eur. J. Biochem.* 230:281-286) with a probe possessing a fluorescence lifetime in the range of 2-300 ns. The labeled profilin is introduced into living indicator cells using bulk loading methodology and the indicator cells are treated with test compounds. Fluorescence anisotropy imaging microscopy

(Gough and Taylor (1993), *J. Cell Biol.* 121:1095-1107) is used to measure test-compound dependent movement of the fluorescent derivative of profilin between the cytoplasm and membrane for a period of time after treatment ranging from 0.1 s to 10 h.

Rho-RhoGDI complex translocation to the membrane. In another embodiment, indicator cells are treated with test compounds and then fixed, washed, and permeabilized. The indicator cell plasma membrane, cytoplasm, and nucleus are all labeled with distinctly colored markers followed by immunolocalization of Rho protein (Self et al. (1995), *Methods in Enzymology* 256:3-10; Tanaka et al. (1995), *Methods in Enzymology* 256:41-49) with antibodies labeled with a fourth color. Each of the four labels is imaged separately using the cell screening system, and the images used to calculate the amount of inhibition or activation of translocation effected by the test compound. To do this calculation, the images of the probes used to mark the plasma membrane and cytoplasm are used to mask the image of the immunological probe marking the location of intracellular Rho protein. The integrated brightness per unit area under each mask is used to form a translocation quotient by dividing the plasma membrane integrated brightness/area by the cytoplasmic integrated brightness/area. By comparing the translocation quotient values from control and experimental wells, the percent translocation is calculated for each potential lead compound.

β-Arrestin translocation to the plasma membrane upon G-protein receptor activation.

In another embodiment of a cytoplasm to membrane translocation high-content screen, the translocation of β-arrestin protein from the cytoplasm to the plasma membrane is measured in response to cell treatment. To measure the translocation, living indicator

cells containing luminescent domain markers are treated with test compounds and the movement of the β-arrestin marker is measured in time and space using the cell screening system of the present invention. In a preferred embodiment, the indicator cells contain luminescent markers consisting of a green fluorescent protein β-arrestin (GFP-β-arrestin) protein chimera (Barak et al. (1997), *J. Biol. Chem.* 272:27497-27500; Daaka et al. (1998), *J. Biol. Chem.* 273:685-688) that is expressed by the indicator cells through the use of transient or stable cell transfection and other reporters used to mark cytoplasmic and membrane domains. When the indicator cells are in the resting state, the domain marker molecules partition predominately in the plasma membrane or in the cytoplasm. In the high-content screen, these markers are used to delineate the cell cytoplasm and plasma membrane in distinct channels of fluorescence. When the indicator cells are treated with a test compound, the dynamic redistribution of the GFP-β-arrestin is recorded as a series of images over a time scale ranging from 0.1 s to 10 h. In a preferred embodiment, the time scale is 1 h. Each image is analyzed by a method that quantifies the movement of the GFP-β-arrestin protein chimera between the plasma membrane and the cytoplasm. To do this calculation, the images of the probes used to mark the plasma membrane and cytoplasm are used to mask the image of the GFP-β-arrestin probe marking the location of intracellular GFP-β-arrestin protein. The integrated brightness per unit area under each mask is used to form a translocation quotient by dividing the plasma membrane integrated brightness/area by the cytoplasmic integrated brightness/area. By comparing the translocation quotient values from control and experimental wells, the percent translocation is calculated for each potential lead compound. The output of the high-

Protein kinase A activity and localization of subunits. In another embodiment of a high-content screen, both the domain localization and activity of protein kinase A (PKA) within indicator cells are measured in response to treatment with test compounds.

The indicator cells contain luminescent reporters including a fluorescent protein biosensor of PKA activation. The fluorescent protein biosensor is constructed by introducing an environmentally sensitive fluorescent dye into the catalytic subunit of PKA near the site known to interact with the regulatory subunit of PKA (Harootunian et al. (1993), *Mol. Biol. of the Cell* 4:993-1002; Johnson et al. (1996), *Cell* 85:149-158; Giuliano et al. (1995), *supra*). The dye can be of the ketocyanine class (Kessler, and Wolfbeis (1991), *Spectrochimica Acta* 47A:187-192) or any class that contains a protein reactive moiety and a fluorochrome whose excitation or emission spectrum is sensitive to solution polarity. The fluorescent protein biosensor of PKA activation is introduced into the indicator cells using bulk loading methodology.

In one embodiment, living indicator cells are treated with test compounds, at final concentrations ranging from 10^{-12} M to 10^{-3} M for times ranging from 0.1 s to 10 h. In a preferred embodiment, ratio image data are obtained from living treated indicator cells. To extract biosensor data from each time point, a ratio is made between each pair of images, and each pixel value is then used to calculate the fractional activation of PKA (*e.g.*, separation of the catalytic and regulatory subunits after cAMP binding). At high fractional values of activity, PFK-2 stimulates biochemical cascades within the living cell.

To measure the translocation of the catalytic subunit of PKA, indicator cells containing luminescent reporters are treated with test compounds and the movement of the

metabolism, cell locomotion, cell-cell communication, and cell death can involve the alteration of gene expression. High-content screens can also be designed to measure this class of physiological response.

In one embodiment, the reporter of intracellular gene expression is an oligonucleotide that can hybridize with the target mRNA and alter its fluorescence signal. In a preferred embodiment, the oligonucleotide is a molecular beacon (Tyagi and Kramer (1996) *Nat. Biotechnol.* 14:303-308), a luminescence-based reagent whose fluorescence signal is dependent on intermolecular and intramolecular interactions. The fluorescent biosensor is constructed by introducing a fluorescence energy transfer pair of fluorescent dyes such that there is one at each end (5' and 3') of the reagent. The dyes can be of any class that contains a protein reactive moiety and fluorochromes whose excitation and emission spectra overlap sufficiently to provide fluorescence energy transfer between the dyes in the resting state, including, but not limited to, fluorescein and rhodamine (Molecular Probes, Inc.). In a preferred embodiment, a portion of the message coding for β-actin (Kislauskis et al. (1994), *J. Cell Biol.* 127:441-451; McCann et al. (1997), *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 94:5679-5684; Sutoh (1982), *Biochemistry* 21:3654-3661) is inserted into the loop region of a hairpin-shaped oligonucleotide with the ends tethered together due to intramolecular hybridization. At each end of the biosensor a fluorescence donor (fluorescein) and a fluorescence acceptor (rhodamine) are covalently bound. In the tethered state, the fluorescence energy transfer is maximal and therefore indicative of an unhybridized molecule. When hybridized with the mRNA coding for β-actin, the tether is

broken and energy transfer is lost. The complete fluorescent biosensor is introduced into the indicator cells using bulk loading methodology.

In one embodiment, living indicator cells are treated with test compounds, at final concentrations ranging from 10^{-12} M to 10^{-3} M for times ranging from 0.1 s to 10 h. In a preferred embodiment, ratio image data are obtained from living treated indicator cells. To extract morphometric data from each time point, a ratio is made between each pair of images, and each pixel value is then used to calculate the fractional hybridization of the labeled nucleotide. At small fractional values of hybridization little expression of β-actin is indicated. At high fractional values of hybridization, maximal expression of β-actin is indicated. Furthermore, the distribution of hybridized molecules within the cytoplasm of the indicator cells is also a measure of the physiological response of the indicator cells.

Cell surface binding of a ligand

Labeled insulin binding to its cell surface receptor in living cells. Cells whose plasma membrane domain has been labeled with a labeling reagent of a particular color are incubated with a solution containing insulin molecules (Lee et al. (1997), *Biochemistry* 36:2701-2708; Martinez-Zaguilan et al. (1996), *Am. J. Physiol.* 270:C1438-C1446) that are labeled with a luminescent probe of a different color for an appropriate time under the appropriate conditions. After incubation, unbound insulin molecules are washed away, the cells fixed and the distribution and concentration of the insulin on the plasma membrane is measured. To do this, the cell membrane image is used as a mask for the insulin image. The integrated intensity from the masked insulin image is compared to a set of images containing known amounts of labeled insulin. The amount of insulin bound to the cell is